

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
SDM® SAFETY ASSESSMENT

r: 1/07

Case Name: \_\_\_\_\_ LINK #: \_\_\_\_\_ Household Assessed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Area Office: \_\_\_\_\_ Worker: \_\_\_\_\_ Assessment Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Assessment Type: ☐ Initial ☐ Subsequent

SECTION 1: SAFETY FACTORS

The following factors are behaviors or conditions that may be associated with a child being in immediate danger of serious harm. Identify the presence or absence of each factor by checking either "yes" or "no." Note: The vulnerability of each child needs to be considered throughout the assessment. Children ages zero through six cannot protect themselves. For older children, inability to protect themselves could result from diminished mental or physical capacity or repeated victimization.

Yes No

- ☐ ☐ 1. Caregiver caused serious physical harm to the child or made a plausible threat to cause serious physical harm in the current investigation indicated by:
- ☐ Serious injury or abuse to the child other than accidental.
  - ☐ Caregiver fears he/she will maltreat the child.
  - ☐ Threat to cause harm or retaliate against the child.
  - ☐ Excessive discipline or physical force.
  - ☐ Drug-exposed infant.
  - ☐ Death of a child due to abuse/neglect.
- ☐ ☐ 2. Child sexual abuse is suspected and circumstances suggest that the child's safety may be of immediate concern.
- ☐ ☐ 3. Caregiver fails to protect the child from serious harm or threatened harm by others. This may include physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect.
- ☐ ☐ 4. Caregiver's explanation for the injury to the child is questionable or inconsistent with the type of injury, and the nature of the injury suggests that the child's safety may be of immediate concern.
- ☐ ☐ 5. The family refuses access to the child, or there is reason to believe that the family is about to flee.
- ☐ ☐ 6. Caregiver does not meet the child's immediate needs for supervision, food, clothing, and/or medical or mental health care.
- ☐ ☐ 7. The physical living conditions are hazardous and immediately threatening to the health and/or safety of the child.
- ☐ ☐ 8. Caregiver's current substance abuse seriously impairs his/her ability to supervise, protect, or care for the child.
- ☐ ☐ 9. Domestic violence exists in the home and poses a risk of serious physical and/or emotional harm to the child.
- ☐ ☐ 10. Caregiver describes the child in predominantly negative terms or acts toward the child in negative ways that result in the child being a danger to self or others, acting out aggressively, or being severely withdrawn and/or suicidal.
- ☐ ☐ 11. Caregiver's emotional stability, developmental status, or cognitive deficiency seriously impairs his/her current ability to supervise, protect, or care for the child.
- ☐ ☐ 12. There is a pattern of prior investigations or behavior AND current circumstances are near the threshold for any other safety factor.
- ☐ ☐ 13. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

IF NO SAFETY FACTORS ARE OBSERVED, PROCEED TO SECTION 3.

## SECTION 2: SAFETY INTERVENTIONS

If no safety factors are present, go to Section 3. If one or more safety factors are present, consider whether safety interventions 1-8 will allow the child to remain in the home for the present time. Check the item number for all safety interventions that will be implemented. If there are no available safety interventions that would allow the child to remain in the home, indicate by checking item nine if the caregiver arranges for the care of the child outside of the home or intervention 10 if the child will be taken into protective custody.

Check all that apply:

**Interventions that will enable the children to remain in the home for the present time:**

- ☐ 1. Intervention or direct services by worker as part of a safety plan.
- ☐ 2. Use of family, neighbors, or other individuals in the community as safety resources.
- ☐ 3. Use of community agencies or services as safety resources.
- ☐ 4. Have the non-offending caregiver appropriately protect the victim from the alleged perpetrator.
- ☐ 5. Have the alleged perpetrator leave the home, either voluntarily or in response to legal action.
- ☐ 6. Have the non-offending caregiver move to a safe environment with the child.
- ☐ 7. Legal action planned or initiated—child remains in the home.
  - ☐ The family has initiated a legal action (e.g., restraining/protective orders, change in custody/visitation, mental health commitments) that mitigates identified safety factors.
  - ☐ The Department may have or will be filing neglect petitions in Juvenile Court based on identified safety factors. The decision to file petitions in and of itself is not an appropriate intervention to ensure the child's safety in the home.
- ☐ 8. Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**Intervention caregiver makes for the child to be cared for outside of the home:**

- ☐ 9. Caregiver arranges for care of the child outside the home.

**Intervention to remove a child from the home:**

- ☐ 10. Child placed in protective custody because no interventions are available to adequately ensure the child's safety.

## SECTION 3: SAFETY DECISION

Identify the safety decision by checking the appropriate box below. This decision should be based on the assessment of all safety factors, safety interventions, and any other information known about the case. Check one box only.

- ☐ 1. **Safe.** No safety factors were identified at this time. Based on currently available information, there are no children likely to be in immediate danger of serious harm.
- ☐ 2. **Conditionally Safe.** It has been determined that this child is at imminent risk of removal from the home and that reasonable efforts are being made to prevent the removal and that absent effective pre-placement preventive services, the plan is to place the child in foster care. One or more safety factors are present, and protecting safety interventions have been planned or taken. Based on protecting interventions, the child will remain in the home at this time or the caregiver has arranged for care of the child outside of his/her home as a protective intervention.
- ☐ 3. **Unsafe.** One or more safety factors are present, and placement is the only protecting intervention possible for one or more children. Without placement, one or more children will likely be in immediate danger of serious harm.
  - ☐ All children placed.
  - ☐ One or more children will be placed in protective custody, but others remain in the home.

Worker: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

#### SECTION 4: SAFETY PLAN

If any safety factors were identified on the safety assessment AND if any children will remain in the home, identify each safety factor and describe the safety plan which will be implemented to specifically address each identified safety factor(s). Describe who will do what and by when. Select one review date for the most acute activity, then update as needed.

Review Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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Safety factor: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian will do the following: \_\_\_\_\_

DCF will do the following: \_\_\_\_\_

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Safety factor: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian will do the following: \_\_\_\_\_

DCF will do the following: \_\_\_\_\_

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Safety factor: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian will do the following: \_\_\_\_\_

DCF will do the following: \_\_\_\_\_

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Caregiver: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Caregiver: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Worker: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Indicate date when a copy of the signed safety plan was or will be placed in the hard copy record. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

